

BEST COPY
Available

NBC BRIEFING

22 July 1959

ETHIOPIA

I. Emperor Haile Selassie's acceptance of Soviet credit (for \$100 million) and Czech credit [redacted] during his recent visit from 29 June to 17 July to bloc (USSR and Czechoslovakia poses additional problems in the West's relations with Ethiopia.

a. Moscow granted Ethiopia \$100 million long-term low interest line of credit [redacted] signed trade accord, and reached agreement in fields of technical assistance for agricultural and industrial development and cultural exchanges. 25X1

b. Czechs extended Ethiopia line of credit [redacted] and agreed to negotiate economic, technical, and cultural agreements.

c. Rumors persist in Ethiopia that secret protocols made covering military aid from both Moscow and Prague.

d. Prior to Emperor's trip, increasing bloc attempts to penetrate Ethiopia through political and commercial means largely unsuccessful.

i. Moscow's efforts in past directed primarily through Soviet embassy, permanent information center, and 100-bed hospital in Addis Ababa which Soviets have operated since 1947.

ii. Russian Red Cross had operated hospital for about 20 years prior to World War I.

2. Previously Czechs had granted [redacted] line of credit 25X1 last year for purchase of hospital equipment and supplies; legation and permanent trade mission in Addis Ababa active, but relatively ineffective.

a. Czech trade agreement signed in 1956 largely unimplemented.

II. Reaction in Ethiopia to Emperor's agreements mixed, although generally one of approval.

A. Ethiopian masses accept any act of Emperor as correct; expect country's economic difficulties now over.

B. Most government personnel elated, but some top officials fear Emperor may have gone too far with agreements.

C. Literate Ethiopians outside government apparently less jubilant, and some university students reportedly calling Emperor's action sell-out to Soviets.

III. Moscow has scored immediate propaganda victory in Ethiopia which may have wider repercussions throughout Africa.

A. Both Soviet and Ethiopian information media provided wide coverage of Emperor's laudatory remarks about USSR and its leaders. He toasted USSR as "greatest country in world."

B. Moscow has announced Khrushchev and Voroshilov accepted an invitation to visit Ethiopia--date yet to be agreed upon.

C. Arrival of numerous bloc technicians in Ethiopia would expose young, foreign-educated elements--already restive over slowness 25X1 in attaining high positions--to Communist influence.

25X1

[Redacted]

v. Emperor's primary intent probably to secure maximum assistance to solve country's economic difficulties, but probably also to stimulate U.S. interest in Ethiopia.

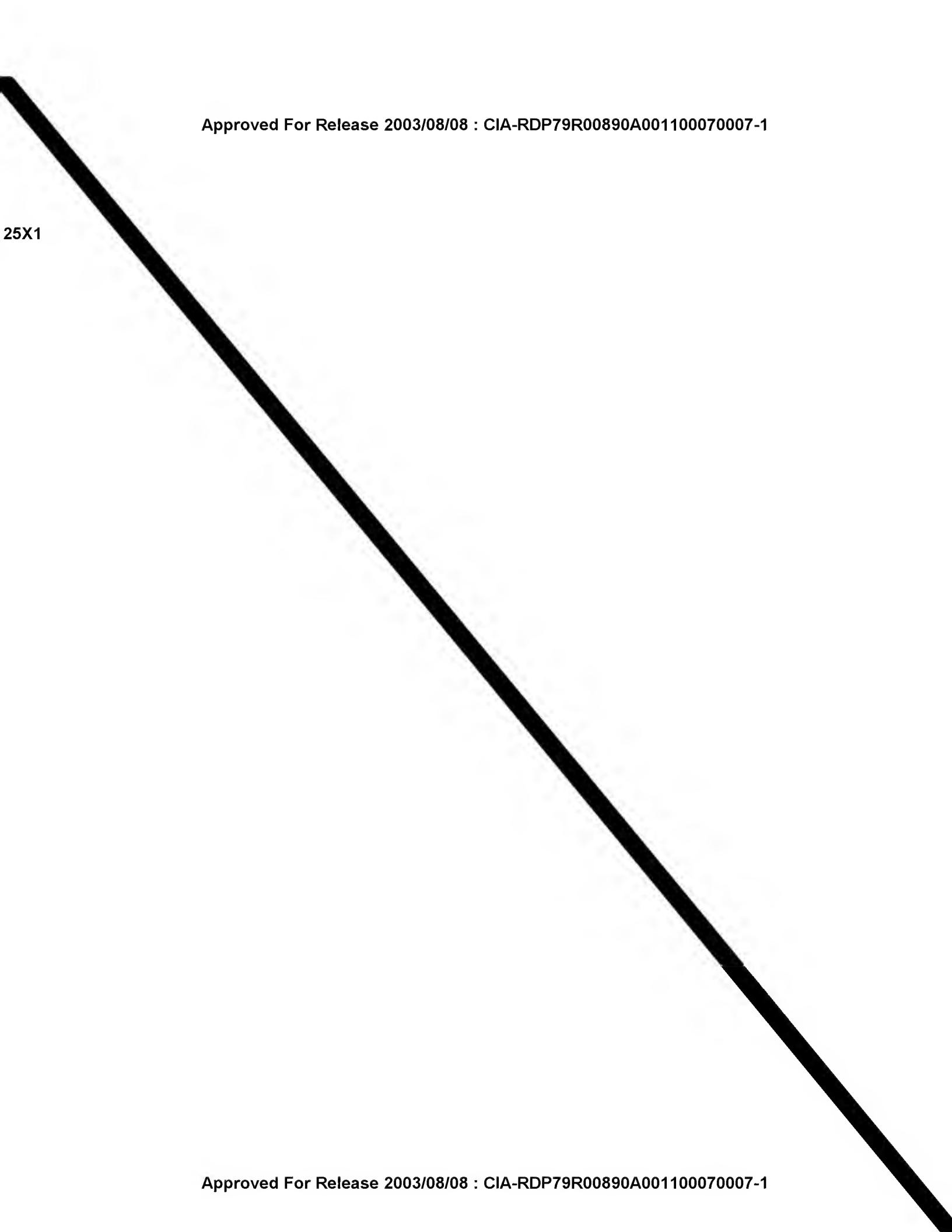
A. Emperor, believing he has bloc support, may assume more independent attitude toward West and stronger pan-African posture. May create trouble in future for US in terms of our communications facilities at Assmara.

[Redacted]

25X1

Approved For Release 2003/08/08 : CIA-RDP79R00890A001100070007-1

25X1

A thick, solid black line runs diagonally from the top-left corner towards the bottom-right corner of the page, effectively redacting the majority of the document content.

Approved For Release 2003/08/08 : CIA-RDP79R00890A001100070007-1